

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:841
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
VISIT OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;DILEEP SANGHANI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether British Prime Minister visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the matters discussed; and
- (c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Prime Minister Tony Blair visited India from 4 to 7 January, 2002.

(b) & (c) The discussions focussed on recent global and regional developments of mutual concern and revealed a commonality of approach on issues of strategic concern to both countries. On 6 January, the two Prime Ministers signed the New Delhi Declaration which identifies the areas of partnership between India and the United Kingdom in the 21st century. The Declaration reaffirms the close cooperation between the two countries to eliminate terrorism. It condemns unambiguously all acts of terrorism and rejects the arguments of those who attempt to justify terrorism. The Declaration states that 'the U.K continues to view India as a natural contender for permanent membership of the Security Council and will work with India to achieve it.' It also outlines the partnership between India and the UK in the areas of development, education, science and technology and trade and investment.